

Show of Hands

Fairfax County Public Library Volunteer Newsletter



Spring 2005

Shining Stars

The Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees honored 38 individuals and four community service partners at its annual Star Volunteer Awards ceremony on April 13 at the George Mason Regional Library.

"I think you may be more excited than I am," quipped volunteer **Gloria Toner**, after emcee Del. Mark Sickles coaxed her into letting him open her gift. Toner, who was honored for 7,500 hours of volunteer service at the Fairfax City Regional Library, received a set of engraved bookends, as well as a certificate of appreciation.

Sickles, who served on the library's Board of Trustees from 1993 – 2003 prior to his election to the Virginia House of Delegates in November 2003, is an enthusiastic supporter of libraries and has served as a volunteer in a library branch.

His wit and enthusiasm were contagious. "I just want to thank the Academy," Richard Byrd Library volunteer **Barbarra Chapman** announced in true film star style as she accepted her award. Chapman was honored for more than 1,000 hours of service.

Prior to the ceremony, honorees gathered for coffee and dessert, a delicious yellow cake prepared by staff baker extraordinaire Joan Bissell, circulation manager at the Reston Regional Library. Board Chair Stephanie Abbott then opened the ceremony with special awards to community partner teams from **Datatel, Inc.**; **ExxonMobil Employees' Book Club**; **Starbucks Coffee**; and **Volunteer Fairfax**. Datatel, ExxonMobil and Starbucks have all donated funds to purchase children's books for the Motherhead®/Fatheread® program. Starbucks employees have donated time to read to children in the program; Datatel employees have helped with book sales at two branches. Volunteer Fairfax supported the library's teen volunteer fairs and provided volunteer management training for staff.

Continued on page 2



Del. Mark Sickles addresses Star Volunteers and library staff gathered for the April 13, 2005 awards ceremony at the George Mason Regional Library.

Community Service Partner Awards

Datatel, Inc.: Ana Borray, Susan Koch

ExxonMobil Employees Book Club: Stephanie Kelly, Martha Alami

Starbucks Coffee Company: David Coker

Volunteer Fairfax: Jessica Segal, Emily Swenson

Star Volunteer Honorees

Centreville Regional Library: Miriam Hewitt, 1,000+ hours.

Fairfax City Regional Library: Gloria Toner, 7,500+ hours;

Bob Beacom, Gerald Gustafson: 1,000+ hours; Christine Jacobson, Exceptional Service; Marilyn Feldman, Exceptional Service.

Fairfax County Public Library Foundation, Inc.: Eugenie Ballering, Exceptional Service; Anne de Dios, Exceptional Service.

George Mason Regional Library: Ann Marie Reintjes, 1,000+ hours.

Herndon Fortnightly Library: Susan Hopper, 1,000+ hours.

Kingstowne Library: Martha Fitzpatrick, 1,000+ hours.

Kings Park Library: Dottie Morefield, 1,000+ hours.

Lorton Library: Arnold Zimmer, 10,000+ hours.

Martha Washington Library: Stella Reed, Exceptional Service.

Pohick Regional Library: Eric Tongren, 10,000+ hours;

Mary Villa McLaughlin, Exceptional Service; Simrun Kaur Bal, Clare Politano, Buddy Inglefield, Jessica Pritchett, Team Award for Exceptional Service.

Richard Byrd Library: Barbarra Chapman, Elizabeth Welsh: 1,000+ hours.

Reston Regional Library: Su Davis, 3,000+ hours;

Felicia Fisher, 1,000+ hours; Joel Guth, Tom Radlik, Anne Reisser, Team Award for Exceptional Service; Sandra Beese, Carol Henderson, Sarah Nobles, Gail Osberg, Team Award for Exceptional Service.

Sherwood Regional Library: Gene Peterson, Marie Peterson: 3,000+ hours; Alice Pickering, 1,000+ hours.

Thomas Jefferson Library: Virginia Reid, 1,000+ hours

Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library: Kathleen Walker, 3,000+ hours; Julia Leedy, 1,000+ hours.

Woodrow Wilson Library: Stuart Feldstein, Exceptional Service.

Library Board of Trustees Chair Stephanie Abbott presents a Community Service Partner Award to Volunteer Fairfax representatives Emily Swenson and Jeanne Sanders.



Volunteer Fairfax Honors Kate Wanderer, Jan Baity

Volunteer Fairfax named **Kate Wanderer**, the volunteer coordinator for the Fairfax County Public Library, a Community Champion at its 13th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards on April 21 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. She was one of only seven individuals in the county recognized for their active role in promoting volunteerism and service in the local community.



Kate Wanderer poses with Library Director Edwin S. Clay III at the Volunteer Fairfax Community Service Awards.

In presenting the award, Volunteer Fairfax noted:

“Kate Wanderer has served as director of volunteer programs for Fairfax County Public Libraries for the last 12 years. During her tenure she has doubled the number of volunteer hours donated to the libraries. A winner of the Fairfax County Onthank Award for volunteer management, Ms. Wanderer has significantly increased volunteerism in the libraries. Because of Ms. Wanderer’s hard work volunteers are now used in every library activity and minority volunteers represent 38% of the volunteer staff. On the forefront of volunteer management, Ms. Wanderer established the Virginia Library Association’s Volunteer Management Forum in 1996 and developed a state-wide committee to provide volunteer management training for volunteer managers within the library systems. For her efforts Ms. Wanderer was awarded the Northern Virginia Association of Volunteer Administrators’ Sandra Lee Fitch Award.”

Lorton Library volunteer **Jan Baity** was one of only 11 county volunteers to receive a Senior Volunteer Service Award for her 15 years of continuous service on Lorton’s check-out desk. She has volunteered twice a week since the branch

opened in its new building in 1990. At anniversary festivities for the branch in early April, Jan was chosen to cut the celebratory cake.

In nominating Jan, Lorton staff wrote: “Her service allows staff members time off the service desk to accomplish backroom tasks while she provides exemplary customer service to the Fairfax County Public Library ... She is always cordial, diplomatic and efficient with our public ... Ms. Baity takes a personal interest in our patrons and she knows many of them. She understands the library workflow and generates enthusiasm when our patrons interact with her.”

Congratulations to Community Champion Kate and Senior Volunteer Jan for their county-wide awards!



Volunteer Jan Baity, honored by Volunteer Fairfax for her 15 years of continuous service, cuts the cake at anniversary festivities at the Lorton Library on April 9.

Shining Stars, *continued from page 1*



Del Sickles poses with Kingstowne Library Star Volunteer, Martha Fitzpatrick, who has contributed more than 1,000 hours to the branch.

Among special volunteers honored for length-of-service milestones were **Arnold Zimmer** and **Eric Tongren**, who have donated more than 10,000 hours to their respective branches, the Lorton Library and the Pohick Regional Library.

Exceptional Service volunteers were also recognized for outstanding projects. Some of the honorees included: **Anne de Dios** and **Eugenie Ballering**, who visit family resource centers, Head Start classrooms and teen parenting programs each week as part of the Motherhead®/Fatheread® outreach program; **Stuart Feldstein**, who coaches a chess club at the Woodrow Wilson Library in Falls Church; and **Christine Jacobson**, who helped set up a classical music database at the Fairfax City Regional Library.

Delegate Sickles ended his emcee duties by encouraging all volunteers in the room to recruit neighbors and friends to join them. “After all,” he said, “You get to see all the new books, even if you don’t have time to read them.”

-- Pat Bangs

Portrait of a Volunteer



Dave Ware, a periodicals volunteer at the George Mason Regional Library, brings a “can do” attitude to everything he tackles.

The George Mason Regional Library is so fortunate to have a most remarkable, dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer, Dave Ware. As a periodicals volunteer, he helps prepare the magazines for shelving, shelves them, and delivers reference materials to the information desk that the periodicals staff prepare. He has learned to take responsibility for certain tasks when periodicals staff are unavailable due to meetings, and has become an important part of the periodicals team.

Besides his periodicals work, Dave now helps with various book sorting and check-in tasks and just about anything else you might ask of him. He hopes in time to become a Page, which is a paid staff member who reshelves books and other material.

Dave volunteers between 18 and 21 hours a week, a remarkable amount of time. He explains he really enjoys helping people, and admits he inherited his strong work ethic from his grandfather and parents. “They were ‘roll up your sleeves and get to work kind of people.’” He also said he is proud to set an example for others by showing up for work regularly (while using public transportation), and being willing to do anything asked of him.

When asked why he chose to volunteer at our library branch, he explained that even though he was born in Maryland and lived outside of Fairfax County for short periods as a child, he has now lived in the county for 33 years. Our branch has been his library all that time (talk about loyal customers!).

Dave, of course, loves to read. He also enjoys learning new jobs and using the computer. When not volunteering, he collects books, bowls in three leagues, and takes care of his 95-year-old mother. He might be any volunteer, except that Dave, who has had personal challenges of his own, meets life with a “can do attitude.” “Do your best” and “don’t let anything stand in your way” seem to be his mottos. We thank you, Dave, not only for your work, but for your inspirational attitude toward life. You are very much a part of our George Mason Regional Library family!

*Gwen Masaitis, Circulation Staff
George Mason Regional Library*

Confessions of a Book Sale Team

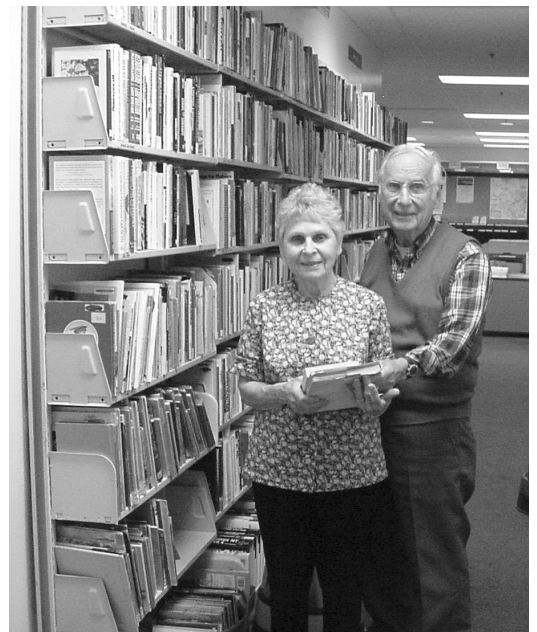
When is a used book more than just a used book? One answer might be when a used book meets some specific need of a library customer. Examples of this metamorphosis are frequently encountered by those of us who volunteer on the book sale team at the Sherwood Regional Library.

Specifically, there was a customer who found a book on how to care for and teach a young person who was suffering from mild – but permanent – brain damage. Another customer was a new American who needed a paperback dictionary. Often we meet grandparents who need four or five children’s books for an upcoming visit by their grandchildren. Some customers focus on a single author of mysteries or romances or science fiction novels.

But the prize for the customer who traveled the longest distance goes to the lady who was seen carefully assembling a pile of used books. She announced, “I am on home leave from my mission in China, and I need books for myself and also for my Chinese friends who are learning English.” She left with an impressive stack of used books, and before leaving added, “I do thank you so much and I will see you again in two years or so.” Truly, many of our sale books are so much more than just another used book.

No, not all patrons who visit our continuous book sale find the specific volume they seek on the first trip. But we always urge patrons to come back again, as the sale shelves are restocked at least twice a week, and it is never predictable what may be donated by our generous patrons and arrive in due course in the book sale.

*Marie and Gene Peterson
Book Sale Volunteers, Sherwood Regional Library*



Whether it is a dictionary for a new American learning English or children’s books for grandparents, book sale browsers at the Sherwood Regional Library often find what they need, thanks to volunteers Marie and Gene Peterson.

Fairfax County Public Library

Volunteer Opportunities

Spring 2005

Our volunteers are our best recruiters! Please help us advertise our opportunities by clipping this list and sharing it with friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, workplace volunteer programs, schools, clubs, or houses of worship – wherever someone might be able to help.

Administration (Fairfax County Government Center): Assist with clerical tasks (filing, photocopying, word processing, preparing mailings) for various departments during weekday daytime hours. Minimum age 16. Linda.Gifford@fairfaxcounty.gov. 703-324-8324.

Woodrow Wilson Library (Baileys Crossroads): Organize and assemble a scrapbook of historical information, photos and other material to help the branch celebrate its 40th birthday. The project can be done at the volunteer's convenience. Supplies will be provided. Qualifications: dependability, creativity, organizational skills, attention to detail, scrapbooking skills, ability to work independently. Adults. Jenny.Growney@fairfaxcounty.gov. 703-820-8774.

Branch Library Opportunities:

- Adopt-a-Shelf (organize a section of library, flexible schedule). Ages 12 and up, or volunteer as a family.
- Provide one-on-one Internet or Web page design tutorials (in English or Spanish). Adults.
- Learn the library's circulation system and help check in books or locate items on reserve for customers. Adults.
- Help a Children's Department by preparing program materials or assisting the Children's Librarian at a program. Ages 14 and up.
- Teach a series of Saturday classes in XML, MS Office, or other technologies. Adults.
- With MLS degree, provide support for the Information Department in providing reference service.

Training is available for all positions. For information on these and other opportunities, contact Kate Wanderer at: Kate.Wanderer@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-8332. To visit the volunteer section of the library's Web site or fill out an online application, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library, click on About the Library, then on Volunteer Program.



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Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request.
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